REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 8-11 are amended and claims 21 and 22 are added. No new matter is added.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Thomas J. Pardini
Registration No. 30,411

WPB:KXH/llw

Attachment:
Appendix

Date: January 12, 2001

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461

APPENDIX

Claims 21 and 22 are added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims.

1/ (Amended) A hot marking method enabling decoration to be made on an article, ~~the method~~ comprising the steps of ~~consisting in~~:

- supplying a multilayer structure comprising a layer of varnish that hardens under the effect of radiation, a backing layer, and a layer of decoration, the varnish layer being situated between the backing layer and the decoration layer;
- bringing said multilayer structure into contact with the article;
- applying pressure and heat to the backing layer at ~~the~~ a location where it is desired to transfer the decoration layer onto the article, the varnish layer being ~~such as to be~~ transferred locally onto the article together with the decoration layer;
- withdrawing the backing layer; and
- causing the layer of varnish that has been transferred onto the article to harden by exposing it to said radiation.

5/ (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the varnish includes oligomers of low molecular weight~~, preferably lying in the range 800 to 2000~~.

8/ (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the varnish includes photo-initiators at a concentration by weight that lies ~~preferably~~ in the range from about 0.3% to about 3%~~, and preferably about 0.5%~~.

9/ (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the backing layer is ~~constituted~~ comprised by a polyester film.

11/ (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the varnish layer is exposed to said radiation while ~~its~~ temperature thereof is still close to ~~its~~ maximum

temperature thereof at the moment when pressure and heat are applied to the backing layer, the temperature difference being ~~preferably~~ less than 30% of the maximum temperature.